



Saint George's Church of England Primary Phase



# Hedgehog Class 2022/23



Hello and a very warm welcome to Hedgehog Class at  
Saint George's Church of England Primary Phase!

Our aim is to create happy, independent and confident learners who love coming to school and think school is fun! We believe that your child's first school experience should be exciting and enjoyable. Parents and children will be apprehensive when starting school, but we will ensure children are well cared for and ensure our environment and the relationships children build with both their peers and adults in school, enables them to feel safe and secure. We feel that it is very important to create a positive partnership between home and school.

The following adults will be working with your child during their time in Reception.

Class Teachers: **Mrs Cassie Brodie and Mrs Emily Holmes**

Teaching Assistant: **Mrs Kelly Read**



### **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

The EYFS curriculum, which your child is already following if they have been to nursery or pre-school is continued in Reception Class. The curriculum continues to be very play based to enable children to settle well into their first year at school. As the Reception year progresses, the day will become more structured to prepare your child for year one.

In Hedgehog Class children's learning will come from their interests. This ensures children are engaged and excited about what they are learning. Our curriculum is very creative and practical, and we give children many hands on experiences, to ensure they are fully engrossed in what they are learning. Through play, children will be learning, but not realise they are doing so!

### **The beginning of the school day**

The school gate will be opened by a member of staff at 8.35am and closed at 8.50am. The gate leads on to the playground and you will walk your child directly to the classroom door, where a member of the EYFS team will be there to greet you. This allows the children to come into school gradually throughout the fifteen minutes and settle themselves. Throughout the first few weeks in school, children will be given lots of help and support to show them where to put their belongings until they are confident to do this by themselves.

If children have been to Breakfast Club, they will be brought to the classroom by a member of the Breakfast Club team.

If your child becomes upset or distressed in the morning, a member of the EYFS team will be there to support and comfort your child. Once the morning activities begin, your child will soon become engrossed and forget the upset they felt earlier. We will endeavor to contact parents through Tapestry or via the telephone to reassure you if your child has been very upset on entry into school.

Once the school gate is closed at 8.50am, any late children should be taken to the school office where they will need to be signed in late.



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### **The end of the school day**

The school day ends at 3.10pm. A member of staff will open the school gate onto the playground, and you will collect your child from the classroom door. All adults collecting your child will need a keyring pass before they can access the school. These will be given to parents on their child's home visit. No child will be allowed to leave school until a designated adult is there to collect them. If somebody different is collecting your child from school, please let the office know or write a note in your child's contact book and a temporary pass will be allocated. Please see the school office on arrival to collect the pass. Any children attending After School Club or any extra-curricular club, will be taken to the club by a member of the EYFS team.

If you wish to discuss a matter concerning your child, please can you do so after school rather than in the morning or during our weekly Open-Door session, held every Monday.

### **Daily Routine**

Once your child has entered school and sorted their belongings, they will carry out an early morning task. This is usually linked to developing fine motor skills. The morning will consist of a short phonics session, adult-led activities as well as child-initiated activities where the children will have access to all areas of the EYFS curriculum.

During the morning children will receive a free piece of fruit from the Government healthy eating scheme. No snack items should be sent into school from home.

We are also part of the School Milk Scheme. All children up until their fifth birthday are entitled to a daily free carton of milk. In order for your child to receive their free milk, you will need to register your child otherwise they will not receive any milk. Please visit the website <http://www.coolmilk.com> to register your child or call 0844 854 2913.



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After their fifth birthday, you will need to pay for your child's milk if they wish to have it, using the website <http://www.coolmilk.com> The milk is delivered fresh and kept in the fridge, so the children receive daily cold, fresh milk.

Your child will need to bring a bottle of water into school each day. This can be refilled in school as needed throughout the day. Please ensure your child's water bottle is named. Your child will have access to their water throughout the day as needed. Please do not put water bottles in book bags as they tend to leak. Children are not allowed squash or juice in their bottles. Water only please.

Once settled in school, your child will attend collective Worship. This may be held in the classroom or with the rest of the school.

During the afternoon, children will carry out mathematics activities as well as child-initiated activities and speaking and listening opportunities. We also make lots of time for stories and singing throughout the day.

### **School Meals & Funding**

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to receive a free school meal, known as universal free school meals. This was an initiative introduced by the Government, with the aim of improving academic attainment and saving families money, by providing all KS1 children with a hot and nutritious meal at lunchtime. You do not need to apply for this; your child is automatically eligible.

You can of course choose to send your child in with a packed lunch. Please send all packed lunches in a clearly named lunchbox so they are not misplaced. If your child is having a packed lunch, please ensure you provide them with a healthy and nutritious choice of food, avoiding any fizzy drinks. Please also be aware that we are a nut-free school.

New menus will be circulated each term and are available to view on the website.

Mrs Brodie and Mrs Holmes will record lunch choices when the register is taken.



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In addition to universal free school meals, if your family is in receipt of certain benefits, you are also eligible to apply for free school meals/pupil premium funding via the Kent County Council website (<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals>). This funding is available from the government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the qualifying benefits and means that we receive a payment of **£1385.00** per year for our school to fund valuable support like extra tuition and additional teaching staff. If you cannot access the online form, please contact the school office, or see the hard copy enclosed with your welcome pack.

### **Reading**

At Saint George's Primary, we follow 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds' to teach phonics. Children will begin reading by learning to recognise letters and the sounds they make. We learn to then blend the sounds and read words. Children will then bring home reading books which are phonetically plausible, so children are able to attempt to read words by themselves. Reading books will be sent home after October half term when the children are confident with several sounds and are beginning to blend. Before October half term, children will bring home story books to share and for you to read to your child as well as books without words. It is very important that children listen to a wide range of stories to develop their language and reading skills. We will also send home key words to practice with your child at home.

Within class children will also read to an adult. They will be encouraged to look carefully at the pictures and talk about what they can see happening. Children will also play various phonics and reading games to practice blending sounds and reading words phonetically.

When you read to your child, share a book with your child or when your child reads to you, please comment in your child's reading record book. Children will be rewarded for reading regularly at home. Children are expected to share a book at home at least five times per week. In order to reward good reading habits, we shall be monitoring and recording the number of times your child reads at home. Any



child who reads at least five times per week will receive a reading reward. Reading will be monitored, and books will be changed once your child had read their book twice. When your child reads in school, there will also be a comment in the reading record book.

Please ensure your child has their reading book and reading record book as well as their contact book, in school every day.

### **Mathematics**

Counting with your child is very important, as well as looking for numbers in their environment. We use the resource 'Numicon' to support Mathematical learning in school. We follow the Maths Mastery programme at Saint George's.

### **Technology**

After Easter your child will have weekly access to the computer room. They will be taught how to use various programmes, as well as the Internet to play various educational games and activities. We develop fine motor skills using the mouse and encourage children to become familiar with the keyboard. We also teach children how to log on, load a game and print their work independently.

As well as computers children will have daily access to the interactive whiteboard in their classroom. There will also be opportunities to explore programmable toys such as B-bots.

### **P.E**

Every week your child will have PE sessions which include games, dance, BEAM and gymnastics. During the Autumn and Spring Term, PE sessions will take place indoors and in the Summer Term we will mainly be outside for PE. On your child's PE day, which is a Thursday, please send your child to school in their PE kit. Please ensure earrings are removed or covered with tape before coming to school on PE days.



## **Outdoor Play**

Children will have access to the outdoors in all weathers as well as taking part in weekly forest school sessions, so it is very important that they have the following items in school;

- Waterproof all in one suit
- Pair of wellington boots
- Warm coat, hat and gloves for cold weather
- Light waterproof jacket and for warm weather
- Sun hat for hot weather
- Sun cream to be applied before school during hot weather

Forest School sessions will take place weekly on Mondays.

## **Playtime**

Children will have access to the school playground after lunch where they will have access to a variety of outdoor games and equipment to play with. There is daily access for all children at Quiet Club run by Miss Parker and Library club run by Mrs. Palmer. In addition to this, children attend the specific clubs they have signed up for. We do expect children to attend regularly each week to a club they have signed up for and registers are taken to monitor this.

## **Behaviour**

All children are expected to show good behaviour. Together, we will create a set of class rules which we will expect the children to follow. These will include things such as; no running, using kind hands and feet, saying kind words, etc. We will reward good behaviour with individual reward charts. We will reward children for demonstrating things such as; sharing and turn taking, being kind, trying their best, etc. We also have class rewards where we celebrate whole class achievements.

Within the class, visual reward systems known as 'recognition boards' are used to promote positive behaviour. Children are also rewarded with dojo points for good effort and behaviour.



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At Saint George's Primary Phase, we focus on positive behaviour management. Once a week we will have Celebration Worship where one child per class is presented with a 'Star of the Week' certificate to celebrate an achievement for that week. We also award Values certificates to those children who have demonstrated our school values.

### **Accidents**

Unfortunately, accidents do happen within school no matter how careful or safety conscious we are.

If your child does have an accident during the day, an accident form will be sent home the same day detailing the accident, time of accident, as well as any treatment carried out. Any bumps or injuries of a serious nature will result in the parents/carers being notified immediately.

Please ensure all emergency telephone numbers are updated regularly in the school office. If your child is unwell, we will need to get hold of you quickly and easily.

Accidents also include toilet accidents. If your child does have an accident of this kind they will be changed and the wet/soiled clothing will be placed in a plastic bag. This will then be discreetly handed to the person collecting the child at the end of the day. Please ensure children have a spare set of underwear, as well as spare socks or tights in their book bags in case a toilet accident occurs. We keep a few spares of dresses and trousers marked 'school' in school if needed. Please ensure these are washed and returned to school if your child is ever sent home in spare clothing.

### **Open door/parental support**





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We will hold weekly Open-Door sessions where you have the opportunity to come into the classroom, look at your child's work, speak with staff and input into our parent voice display. These will take place on Mondays.

At Saint George's Church of England Primary Phase, we always enjoy parental help and there will be regular opportunities to spend time with your child in school. Information of these events will be sent home with your child once they begin school. If any parents would like to help out in Hedgehog class on a regular basis, please speak to Mrs Brodie or Mrs Holmes, or contact the school office.

### **Tapestry**

Children's observations and learning journeys will be recorded on our electronic observation programme, 'Tapestry'. Parents will be given a password encrypted log-in to access their child's learning journey. A workshop about Tapestry will take place to show parents how to use the system and how they can input observations themselves.

More information, along with our Early Years Policy can be found on our school website.

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We hope this information has answered some of your questions and provided you with an insight into Hedgehog Class. If you ever have any worries or concerns, however small or silly they may seem, please speak with Mrs Brodie or Mrs Holmes.

We look forward to developing positive relationships with you as we embark on your child's journey through school.

**Mrs Brodie, Mrs Holmes & Mrs Read**



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### 2022-2023 Term Dates for Primary and Secondary Phase.

Term	Start	Finish	Bank holidays which fall within the term
Term 1	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	
Term 2	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2022	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	
Term 3	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	
Term 4	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	
Term 5	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2023



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Term 6	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023	
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### Development Days (School closed to pupils. Dates correct as at 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022)

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (Trust Day)

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023